REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 11, 2006. Claims 17 to 36 are in the application, with Claims 1 to 16 having been canceled and Claims 17 to 36 being newly-added. Claims 17, 25, 26, 31, 32, 34 and 35 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Turning first to a formal matter, Applicants note that pages 14 and 17 of the Office Action list U.S. Patent No. 7,010,607 (Bunton), but refer specifically to U.S. Patent No. 6,985,244 (Bhogal). Applicants believe that 7,010,607 was inadvertently listed as the patent number for Bhogal, and wish merely to point out this discrepancy.

Turning now to the merits of the Office Action, Claim 14 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) for allegedly being in improper multiple dependent form, as well as for allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In this regard, Applicants note that the same multiple dependency objection was entered in the Office Action of February 23, 2005, responded to in the Amendment dated May 23, 2005, and apparently withdrawn. It is Applicants understanding therefrom that this objection was obviated. Nonetheless, without conceding the correctness of the objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of Claim 14. Withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0049846 (Horen), over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0032655 (Antonin), or over U.S. Patent 6,985,244 (Bhogal). In addition,

these independent claims were rejected under § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,782,396 (Greene) in view of U.S. Patent 5,969,316 (Greer). Claim 15 was rejected under § 102(e) over Horen or over Antonin, under § 103(a) over Green in view of Greer, and under § 103(a) over Bhogal in view of U.S. Patent 6,070,192 (Holt). The remaining claims are dependent, and were rejected as above, or further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,696 (Auger). Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, the rejections are believed to be rendered moot by the cancellation of the rejected claims. Newly-added Claims 17 to 36 are believed allowable over the art for at least the following reasons.

The present invention generally concerns controlling access to a peripheral device by a user based on access management information. The access management information is for identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device available to a user, or identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device not available to the user. The access management information is received at or transmitted to a computer from a server, and is received at or transmitted to a peripheral device from the computer. The peripheral device determines whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device necessary to perform a job received from the computer, based on the access management information.

Independent Claims 17, 26, 32 and 35

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 17 is directed to a method for controlling access to a peripheral device by a user, wherein the peripheral device is accessible by the user based on access management information. The method

includes receiving, at a computer, from a server access management information for identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device available to a user or identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device not available to the user. The method also includes receiving, at the peripheral device, the access management information and a job from the computer, determining, at the peripheral device, whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device necessary to perform the received job, based on the received access management information, and performing, at the peripheral device, the received job in a case that the user can use the feature and/or the service necessary to perform the received job.

Independent Claim 26 is directed to the device side of the invention, and in particular is directed to a device which is accessible by a user based on access management information. The device includes a reception unit constructed to receive, from a computer, a job and access management information for identifying a feature and/or a service of the device available to a user or identifying a feature and/or a service of the device not available to the user, wherein the access management information is transmitted from a server to the computer, and a controller constructed to determine, based on the received access management information, whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the device necessary to perform the received job, and constructed to perform the received job in a case that the user can use the feature and/or the service necessary to perform the received job.

Independent Claim 32 is directed to the server side of the invention and in particular is directed to a server for use in controlling access to a peripheral device by a

user, wherein the peripheral device is accessible by the user based on access management information. The server includes a reception unit constructed to receive from a computer authentication information corresponding to a user, an authentication unit constructed to authenticate the user using the received authentication information, and a transmission unit constructed to transmit to the computer access management information for identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device available to the authenticated user or identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device not available to the authenticated user. The computer transmits the access management information and a job to the peripheral device, the peripheral device determines, based on the access management information, whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the device necessary to perform the job, and the peripheral device performs the job in case that the user can use the feature and/or the service necessary to perform the job.

Independent Claim 35 is directed to the computer side of the invention and in particular is directed to a computer for transmitting a job to a peripheral device, wherein the peripheral device is accessible by the user based on access management information. The computer includes a reception unit constructed to receive from a server access management information for identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device available to a user or identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device not available to the user, and a transmission unit constructed to transmit the received access management information and a job to the peripheral device, wherein the peripheral device determines whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device necessary to perform the job based on the access management information, and the

peripheral device performs the job in case that the user can use the feature and/or the service necessary to perform the job.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of the access management information being received at (as in Claims 17 and 35) or transmitted to (as in Claims 26 and 32) a computer from a server, and received at (as in Claims 17 and 26) or transmitted to (as in Claims 32 and 35) a peripheral device from the computer, or the peripheral device determining whether a user can use a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device necessary to perform a job received from the computer, based on the access management information.

As understood by Applicants, Horen discloses a method in which a server sends media assets over a computer network to a client computer and maintains a file system organized into a plurality of asset groups, wherein media assets share storage medium bandwidth and storage space on a server reserved for their respective asset group. An asset group placement policy module evaluates attributes of an asset group to determine an optimal placement of the asset group within the file system, and a media asset placement policy evaluates the asset bandwidth to distribute media assets within asset groups. See Horen, Abstract.

Antonin arguably discloses a method of providing a financial services terminal, such as an ATM, with a document-driven interface using a set of interface documents, such as HTML, that may be accessed by an application such as a browser. See Antonin, Abstract.

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Bhogal arguably discloses a method for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network by setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period. See Bhogal, Abstract.

Greene arguably discloses a system for aligning students and teachers according to dominant learning and teaching styles. Students and teachers are tested using different learning styles, and the test scores are placed into databases, which are used by the system to calculate a best-fit match between students and teachers. See Greene, Abstract.

Greer arguably discloses smart cards configured with data indicating a meal plan, and card readers which decrement existing data as the user purchases meals. See Greer, Abstract.

Holt arguably discloses a system where a network controller performs data service provider partitioning, quota enforcement, and load balancing to ensure that a data access transport service can provide a high quality of service to subscribed data service providers and their end-users. See Holt, Abstract.

Auger arguably discloses a network for managing orders for carriage, including a central processing unit linked to clients for distribution of the orders to various terminals, which display and print the orders to identified carriers. See Auger, Abstract.

However, the applied references, either alone or in combination, are not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of the access management information being received at (as in Claims 17 and 35) or transmitted to (as in Claims 26 and 32) a computer from a server, and received at (as in Claims 17 and 26) or transmitted to (as in

Claims 32 and 35) a peripheral device from the computer, or the peripheral device determining whether a user can use a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device necessary to perform a job received from the computer, based on the access management information.

Accordingly, Claims 17, 26, 32 and 35 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 25, 31 and 34

Referring now to Claims 25, 31 and 34, independent Claim 25 is directed to a method for controlling access to a peripheral device by a user, wherein the peripheral device is accessible by the user based on access management information. The method includes receiving, at a computer, from a server access management information for identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device available to a user. The method also includes receiving, at the peripheral device, the access management information and a job from the computer, determining, at the peripheral device, whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device necessary to perform the received job, based on the received access management information, and performing, at the peripheral device, the received job in a case that the user can use the feature and/or the service necessary to perform the received job.

Independent Claim 31 is directed to the device side of the invention and in particular is directed to a device which is accessible by a user based on access management information. The device includes a reception unit constructed to receive, from a computer,

a job and access management information for identifying a feature and/or a service of the device available to a user, wherein the access management information is transmitted from a server to the computer, and a controller constructed to determine, based on the received access management information, whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the device necessary to perform the received job, and constructed to perform the received job in case that the user can use the feature and/or the service necessary to perform the received job.

Independent Claim 34 is directed to the server side of the invention and in particular is directed to a server for use in controlling access to a peripheral device by a user, wherein the peripheral device is accessible by the user based on access management information. The server includes a reception unit constructed to receive from a computer authentication information corresponding to a user, an authentication unit constructed to authenticate the user using the received authentication information, and a transmission unit constructed to transmit to the computer access management information for identifying a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device available to the authenticated user. The computer transmits the access management information and a job to the peripheral device, the peripheral device determines, based on the access management information, whether the user can use a feature and/or a service of the device necessary to perform the job, and the peripheral device performs the job in case that the user can use the feature and/or the service necessary to perform the job.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 25, 31 and 34, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of the

access management information being received at (as in Claim 25) or transmitted to (as in Claims 31 and 34) a computer from a server, and received at (as in Claims 25 and 31) or transmitted to (as in Claim 34) a peripheral device from the computer, or the peripheral device determining whether a user can use a feature and/or a service of the peripheral device necessary to perform a job received from the computer, based on the access management information.
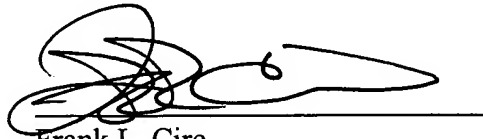
Accordingly, Claims 25, 31 and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

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